

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: kreinbd@ccgate.dl.nec.com (David Kreinberg)
Subject: [2166] 40M - WILD STUFF!
Message-ID: <9600038206.AA820679725@smtpgw.ccgate.dl.nec.com>

Gang:

Forgive my goings on about 40 meters, but this is a new band for me and it's pretty facsinating.

Last nite, I operated from abt 0230-0400Z. Guess my new inv.vee is working, got 599 from Buffalo, NY (him 579), 579 from MI (him same), and 599 from PA (same agn). BTW - rig was EXP II at 2 watts.

Did anybody have gud success on 40 last nite/morning? Now it was very cold here in Dallas and the band was VERY noisy (QRN), but it seemed to be wide open for short periods (10-15 min). Then those 599's would drop quickly to 339's down and out.

Wild stuff. This was the 1st time for me that 40 has sounded so promising, yet with mucho noise.

Just my observations.....

72/73 de Dave KK5HA
QRP-L #25

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [2186] ABX (adj. bandwidth xtal filter) comments
Message-ID: <v02130500ad108ed255f6@[199.170.106.28]>

As explained in the Sierra manual, ABX is a simpler version of the Jones filter (VBT) used on Ten-Tec rigs. While definitely not perfect, it is useful:

1. Going to the narrow end (~150 Hz at -6dB) is effective for QRM reduction. You do lose some signal strength, but S/N improves, and that's usually what you're after.
2. A typical setting near midpoint (~400Hz) is about right for most casual CW operating.
3. Going to a wide setting (~1KHz) makes locating and copying signals

easier on a quiet band. There is a tendency towards fatigue listening to narrow filter bandwidths all the time.

4. At the very widest setting (~1.7KHz), you can copy SSB if you move the BFO crystal using the BFO trimmer. I'm thinking about adding a switch to my unit that shifts the crystal frequency with one switch pole, and disconnects the grounded end of the ABX pot with another pole. This way, you get a quick "SSB Receive" switch function with no tweaking.

Note that the varactor diodes track fairly well in general, but can be hand-matched if you want the cleanest possible passband at all settings. This is not necessary, in my opinion, for CW use. A future application note will describe how to optimize the ABX circuit for SSB.

73,
Wayne
N6KR

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Harry_Chase@smtpgw.windata.com (Harry Chase)
Subject: [2191] ABX (adj. bandwidth xtal filter) comments
Message-ID: <9600038207.AA820710951@smtpgw.windata.com>

How does the "Jones filter" in the TenTec rigs differ from the "ABX", and from the filter in the OHR Explorer II??? Can someone enlighten me here? -- A friend asked me this question when I mentioned my Explorer II filter, and he wanted to know if this was the same as a Jones filter...

Harry
WA1VVH

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: paul1@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca (Paul Erickson)
Subject: [2189] ABX etc for qrp +
Message-ID: <9601032015.AA12938@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca>

How many other qrp+ owners would be interested in abx and computer interfacing for the qrp+? If there are enough of us we could approach index labs en mass.

Anyone have any input on the technical feasibility of these features?

cheers, Paul
VE7CQK
email: paul1@wizard.ucs.sfu.ca

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [2211] Alinco DX-70T as QRP rig
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9601032002.D30732-0100000@w3eax.umd.edu>

It's small, weighs only 6 pounds, has all the filters built-in, and it's cute and capable - AND it's \$300 or more less than the 706.

So what does and doesn't it do as a QRP rig? How do you QRP it?

there are four controls of concern on the inside of the rig:

- 100w pot limits max power on 100w setting
- 50w pot limits max power on 50w setting
- Ic pot limits max current thru final amp
- 50/100w switch chooses 50 or 100 watt max power setting

Some rules of thumb from Tony at Alinco in Calif...

- Ic Max current should NEVER exceed more than 19 amps
- Verify this on all bands, esp. 10m where efficiency is worst
- 100w pot Should never put out more than 100-105 watts on any band
- Can easily be adjusted to put out less - even to zero.
- 50w pot Adjusts output power for 50w setting, dependent upon 100w pot.

To set the rig for QRP levels, I have found setting the 100w pot for 70 watts and the 50w pot for about 40w (on high power) gives about 5 watts on low power with the switch set to the 50w setting.

Caution:

Like the IC-706, the rig draws 600-700 mA on receive and 1.6 A on xmit with NO power out. Putting out even 5 watts draws between 3.5 and 4.2 A. It's a dynamite QRP rig with a great receiver, but it DOES NOT conserve battery capacity.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
** Yes, you CAN do VHF contests with 25W and omni antennas **
Still stuck at 138 countries confirmed on HF w/dipoles...
72 & 73 from suburban DC 301-549-1022 (h) 301-982-1015 (w)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "John Foote" <John_Foote_at_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com>
Subject: [2194] Alinco DX-70T comments
Message-ID: <9600038207.AA820714323@mvlsmtt.ccgate.ml.nec.com>

For your dining and dancing pleasure, general impressions of the Alinco DX-70T after some use over the holidays.

First of all (and this will particularly interest the technical types) it works best into a properly adjusted antenna. My Butternut HF6V vertical got all out of whack while moving it. It sports a bunch of coils to make it resonant at 80 m, 40 m, 30 m, 20 m, and 15 m. One gets lazy when all he thinks he can change bands with abandon and the antenna will stay perfect. My new MFJ antenna analyzer (Xmas present) displayed the shocking truth: not even close on a couple of bands. Hours later with some cheating, sprucing up the VSWR with a tuner and 40 meters came in like gangbusters.

The DX-70 is pretty selective. I'm used to an ICOM, quadruple conversion rig with both IF filters installed. Near 7.040 the crowds and QRM can cover up DX and 400 Hz there's usually a guy who must be using an ETO amp. It takes a while to get fluent with the rig's adjustments because tuning in a station involves "strategies" rather than simply cranking down a bandwidth control, as I'm accustomed.

The CW wide position is OK for uncrowded areas. Narrow (supposedly a 500 Hz position but the slope factor is not given) is better. I often had 2 guys at once even with the narrow filter in. Then the strategies come into play. Using the IF shift the passband can be moved away from noisy neighbors -- if there are no noisy neighbors in the direction you're moving the passband. It doesn't change the size of the IF window, just moves it.

I have never used a CW Upper/Lower switch before. It comes in handy to change the side of the CW signal from which you approach it. So if an interfering station is slightly lower than the QSO and passband shift won't move you away from it, perhaps by flipping the CW "offset" to the other side of the desired signal allow the passband shift to do more good.

Basic stuff, this, but it took me a while to get the hang of tuning, shifting, and moving to the other side, over and over. The last resort is to take out RF gain by enabling a 10 db pad in the front end. If the DX is strong enough this can move the receiver to a better spot in its dynamic range/AGC range, where the interference will go down into the

noise.

All this is designed to compensate for the lack of a real "passband tuning" circuit. Unlike my ICOM the ultimate bandwidth is only determined by the wide/narrow crystal filter choice.

Does it perform as well as my other rig (my ICOM 751A)? No. It's a dual conversion design, while my ICOM is QUADRUPLE conversion. The ICOM's IF passband WIDTH control and IF NOTCH will squeeze the 500 Hz window considerably. The 751A has neither IF shift, nor CW upper/lower but doesn't seem to need them. But the 751A weighs twice what the Alinco weighs and is not as small (the size of a club sandwich).

At 7.040 the Alinco allows copying weak signals 500 Hz of strong ones. I expect an audio DSP or SCAF would complement the DX-70T well.

Three transmit power levels are available: 100 w, 50 w (by changing an internal switch for the 100 w mode) and 10 w. I have not figured out how to get to QRP levels yet. Relative power output is shown on a bar meter in the LCD when the key is down. It's truly indicative of output power so I can tell if the antenna is significantly out of tune (fewer "bars" lighted). The DX-70T does not simply show a set no. of bars for each selected power output, as do so many 2 meter HT's.

Break-in is smooth, but noisy (relays clicking, and I don't mean quietly). Choices are: no delay (full break-in), a set delay (1 to 4 seconds) or automatic. Automatic mode determines your average keying speed and sets an appropriate semi break-in delay. I was impressed.

The DX-70T has no internal keyer and no room to add one. I'm getting pretty good with a straight key here. Audio is clear and full enough with the internal speaker. The front controls include two tuning knobs. One is a conventional large tuning control that changes in .1 KHz increments. The other can increment from 1 KHz to 100 KHz OR change the rig from one band to another.

I haven't used the 6 meter mode yet.

All-in-all I'm glad I have the DX-70T, in part because it provides operating situations the ICOM doesn't. I can't wait for Field Day. As a matter of fact, I'm trying to think up a mini- or "pre-" Field Day experience for March. Maybe I'll put a previously unheard of island or mountain on the air. No, but lots of mobile and portable operation with different antennas is a possibility.

Hope the above is interesting, helpful or both.

72 de KR4GL
John Foote

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "BOB SCHNICK, KA3YJG" <SCHNICK@SHRSYS.HSLC.ORG>
Subject: [2173] Another Explorer II up and running
Message-ID: <01HZKL0Z8RKM90PKM9@SHRSYS.HSLC.ORG>

Call me a late starter, but WOW, for the price class, the Explorer is very nice. Great PC board, excellent clear instructions.

Anyone who has basic kit building skill can successfully build this kit. Dick at OHR has done a superb job!

72 de KA3YJG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Aa4xx <aa4xx@nando.net>
Subject: [2163] Beacon Prelim Rpt
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.960103075417.26437B-1000000@bessel.nando.net>

Gang,

Many thanks for your reception reports and related suggestions. The response from the New Year's 40 meter beacon session has been overwhelming. Yesterday I printed out 30 pages of close-spaced messages received from all over the country. This information will be summarized and posted to qrp-1 over the weekend. As time permits, I'll respond to each of the 80 + messages.

You guys scored several firsts this session--first Canadian, first LA,CO,TX,TN,SC,VA (more to follow) to copy the beacon. This information will be useful in establishing baseline data for further tests, and will be made available to all.

Thanks for the response you demonstrated. Be assured there will be future events scheduled within the next few months.

72 and Happy New Year to all,

Paul, AA4XX

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [2198] classic Argonaut mods wanted
Message-ID: <15367.820708617@safety.ics.uci.edu>

Hello All -

I finally found the Argonaut 515 I always wanted, and while cleaning and aligning and arranging all the documentation and stuff, realized I have a lot of stuff on the old 509 and even some on the 505.

I would like to put together a list of published mods for the "classic" Argonauts, the 505, 509 and 515. I have found (through the help of this list) an article in QST about adding an 8 pole filter box outside the Triton, a QQ article adapting the QST article to the 515, and a QQ article on adding a frequency counter to the Argonauts.

If anyone is interested, would you send me email about any other published (or, heck, unpublished) mods / hints / tips for the classic Argonauts? I would be happy to compile a list with citations, and to archive whatever I can about it. Would make a neat little article for QQ, there still are a lot of classic Argos out there in use.

Thanks.

Clark

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Clark Savage Turner, Graduate Student Researcher
Software Engineering Testing
Department of Info. and Computer Science 1514 Verano Place
Irvine, CA. 92717 Irvine, CA. 92715
(714) 824 4049 (714) 856 2131

WA3JPG, QRP #3526, active on HF, VHF and UHF.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: ljones@why.net (ljones)
Subject: [2161] Code Boy Keyer
Message-ID: <19960103085506972.AAB243@dal12.why.net>

Greetings Gang...

I just read the review in QQ on the Code Boy Keyer. I also read Randy's (WJ4P) review. I generally agree with their reviews, except for one thing.

The mechanical alignment of the parts leaves a lot to be desired. I had to modify the board mounting holes to get the unit to fit together well. I also had to use different board to case spacers to get the connectors to align with the holes in the case. It was a "cut and try" operation. I would not recommend this to a first time kit builder mainly because of the alignment problems. They could be very frustrating for a beginner. My unit was the full blown kit, i.e. board, case, pots, etc. included. I would consider the stripped down kit (just board & board parts, no case) to be included into a transceiver kit. Of course for a few bucks, a SUPER CMOS II OR III would be the keyer of choice. Just my two pecos worth...

72/73

dee-it dee-it

Larry Jones N50SG <><	NorTex	QRP-ARCI	G-QRP	MI-QRP
4028 Random Circle	NorCal	NE-QRP	QRP-L	NTMS
Garland Tx 75043-3250				

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: rac@usa.net
Subject: [2188] Code Boy Keyer
Message-ID: <199601032011.NAA03380@mail.usa.net>

Larry Jones said

>I generally agree with their reviews, except for one thing.
>The mechanical alignment of the parts leaves a lot to be desired. I
had to
>modify the board mounting holes to get the unit to fit together
well. I >also had to use different board to case spacers to get the
connectors to >align with the holes in the case. It was a "cut and
try" operation.

Most of the reviews of the CodeBoy have mentioned this point
although I am not aware of anyone else who had as severe a problem
as Larry and I don't think he told me of his problem when he was
building his unit. (I am contacting him via e-mail to follow-up.)
Our first run of production units went together OK. We then shipped
our first group of kits which included Larry's. A few weeks after
his unit shipped, one customer informed me of the difficulty he had
in putting his unit together. We checked our entire inventory of

cases and discovered that they were not consistent in fit. (The production prototype was almost perfect!) On finding that, we sorted the cases into acceptable and marginal. We put the acceptable cases into kits and used the marginal cases in factory assembled units. So far, using marginal cases, we have been able to get 100% yield of units without "cutting and fitting". The fit is tight though. No doubt about that. The next production run of cases will open up the tolerances of the connector and mounting holes and I expect the producer to deliver more consistency.

If anyone on the group has a case that doesn't fit, please let me know. I'll provide one that does.

-73-

-Lee WA3FIY-

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@compuserve.com>
Subject: [2181] Codeboy Keyer
Message-ID: <960103181313_75230.1405_HHB78-1@CompuServe.COM>

Having just published a review of the Codeboy keyer in Low Down (No. 12, p.40) I'd like to endorse Randy's comments and add a note or two....

>says it is supposed to run 200 hours key down and
>if it is turned off it will do the shelf life of the battery.
>The directions don't say if it automatically powers itself
>down during inactivity but 200 hours of continuous dits
>and dahs is a loooooooooooooooooong time!

It doesn't power itself off because it doesn't need to. With the switch "on" it is pretty much electronically dead until you key it, so it won't matter if you forget to turn it off. Standby current drain is documented at "less than a uA"

Board jumpers select mode A or B and auto or manual spacing. Trimmers adjust dot/space ratio (to compensate for dit-shortening rigs) and dash/dot ratio.

There is an accessory kit available for grid- or cathode-block keyed rigs.

Also, the keyer is available as a board kit for only \$24.95. It's the most complete board kit I've ever seen, including all controls and jacks (board mounted) and EVEN MATCHING PLUGS. All I had to buy was a box from RS (\$1.99) and a knob for the speed pot. Makes it a bit hard to understand why you'd pay another \$15 for a box and a knob, but still.... Also a w/t version is available at \$54.95. Shipping/handling is \$3.75, and RAC has a catalog.

Radio Adventures Corp.
P.O. BOX 339
Seneca PA 16346
814-677-7221

Bottom line-- everything but memory in a tidy, inexpensive package.

73/72
Marshall
AA0XI/VK5FN

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Dave Fifield <fifield@lan.nsc.com>
Subject: [2200] Copper Tube J-Pole for 2m/70cm?
Message-ID: <30EB1D1B.1FB1@lan.nsc.com>

Does anyone have the constructional details for a dual-bander (2m and 70cm) version of the copper tube J-pole antenna design?
I'd very much appreciate a copy if you have.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Dan Reynolds <bcdlr@slip.net>
Subject: [2155] Exam Programs
Message-ID: <199601030333.TAA02185@slip-1.slip.net>

Anybody know an ftp site to retrieve exam programs from, ones with current exam pool questions? I'm looking for a program(s) to do general and advanced.
Peace+
Dan Reynolds, bcdlr@slip.net, KB9JL0

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: PAT DOYLE <DOYLEPS@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>
Subject: [2162] Exam Programs -Reply
Message-ID: <s0ea35aa.079@LAKEHURST.NAVY.MIL>

For sample amateur radio exams, check out the WWW site "<http://w5ac.tamu.edu:80/exams/>". You can reach it directly or through

"http://www.primenet.com/~aa7tq/".

The second address has many other interesting items to check out, in addition to the sample exam access.

73 de Pat, KA2GSL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [2157] Explorer II Drift
Message-ID: <199601030531.FAA03066@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

Be careful what you ask for as you may get it.

So someone mentioned that their OHR Explorer II drifted. When I wrote up a quick review on the prototype and the ones that I own for 40M and for 30M I noted that there was some drift during the first 5 to 10 minutes. So I whipped out the freq counter and made the following measurements.

January 2, 1996 measurements by Chuck Adams, K5FO

Room temperature 62 degrees F (measured digital thermometer)
16.7 C for my friends in the rest of the world

Frequency measured with Heath IM-2410 freq counter calibrated with WWV using GC-1000 Heath clock (you can tell when Heath was in business I was a good customer of theirs :-). Measured 3.600000MHz at beginning of each time period and at the end also 3.600000MHz to make sure no drift due to counter which was warmed up for one hour before tests.

Rig is 40M Explorer II from Oak Hills Research. Freq measured at R42 buffered from VFO and used a 10:1 probe to the counter.

With cover off the rig and with dial set at midrange 7.035MHz approximately.

TIME	FREQ(Hz)	DRIFT
0236	2,121,225	
0237	2,121,066	-159Hz

0238	2,121,008	-217Hz		
0239	2,120,980	-245Hz		
0240	2,120,955	-270Hz		
0241	2,120,923	-302Hz	first 5 min	-302Hz
0242	2,120,886	-339Hz		
0243	2,120,851	-374Hz		
0244	2,120,822	-403Hz		
0245	2,120,800	-425Hz	second 5 min	-123Hz
0246	2,120,774	-451Hz		
0247	2,120,754	-471Hz		
0248	2,120,736	-489Hz		
0249	2,120,715	-510Hz		
0250	2,120,702	-523Hz	third 5 min	-98Hz
0251	2,120,687	-538Hz		
0252	2,120,678	-547Hz		
0253	2,120,666	-559Hz		
0254	2,120,670	-555Hz		
0255	2,120,670	-555Hz	fourth 5 min	-32Hz
0256	2,120,680	-545Hz		
0257	2,120,686	-539Hz		
0258	2,120,691	-535Hz		
0259	2,120,697	-528Hz		
0300	2,120,707	-518Hz	fifth 5 min	+37Hz
0301	2,120,712	-513Hz		

The following with cover on the rig.

0320	2,121,378			
0321	2,121,155	-223Hz		
0322	2,121,081	-297Hz		
0323	2,121,033	-345Hz		
0324	2,120,994	-384Hz		
0325	2,120,958	-420Hz	first 5 min	-420Hz
0326	2,120,927	-451Hz		
0327	2,120,901	-477Hz		
0328	2,120,878	-500Hz		
0329	2,120,860	-518Hz		
0330	2,120,844	-534Hz	second 5 min	-114Hz
0331	2,120,831	-547Hz		
0332	2,120,820	-558Hz		
0333	2,120,810	-568Hz		
0334	2,120,802	-576Hz		
0335	2,120,795	-583Hz	third 5 min	-49Hz
0336	2,120,789	-589Hz		
0337	2,120,784	-594Hz		
0338	2,120,780	-598Hz		
0339	2,120,776	-602Hz		

0340	2,120,773	-605Hz	fourth 5 min	-22Hz
0341	2,120,771	-607Hz		
0342	2,120,769	-609Hz		
0343	2,120,767	-611Hz		
0344	2,120,765	-613Hz		
0345	2,120,764	-614Hz	fifth 5 min	-9Hz
0346	2,120,763	-615Hz		
0347	2,120,762	-616Hz		
0348	2,120,761	-617Hz		
0350	2,120,761	-617Hz	sixth 5 min	-3Hz
0400	2,120,761	-617Hz		

Dug out the Explorer I for 40M.

0425	3,950,815	
0426	3,950,739	- 76Hz
0427	3,950,690	-125Hz
0428	3,950,650	-165Hz
0429	3,950,617	-198Hz
0430	3,950,590	-225Hz
0431	3,959,571	-244Hz
0432	3,959,557	-258Hz
0433	3,959,547	-268Hz
0434	3,959,540	-275Hz
0435	3,959,535	-280Hz
0440	3,959,535	-280Hz

The VFO circuit is basically the same in both rigs other than the LC values for the tuning ranges due to change in IF frequency.

As I see it, it's a warmup figure of 8 to 10 minutes for the Explorer II and 5 minutes for the Explorer I.

I'll take the II over the I anyday due to improved receiver as witnessed by my capture of the AA4XX beacon over the weekend and the variable bandwidth, the first to be shipped by a kit manufacturer contrary to what someone else posted to this group.

Now I don't want to personally get into a rig by rig comparisons. Someone was asking for comparisons of rigs with a detailed chart in a previous posting. I thought hard and long about it and I can't personally see that this group gains anything by it. There are just

too many variables, both quantitative and non-quantitative. The closest anyone has come to doing this was the Colorado QRP Club in their newsletter last year. The chart, if you keep it to a single page is too wieldy. It becomes outta date rather rapidly.

I like all the rigs for various reasons and I could sit down in a week or two and do a detailed analysis, but hey, it just doesn't serve a purpose to me. I'm not trying to be politically correct here, just there are too many egos out there and everyone has their agenda. If someone wants to play devil's advocate then be prepared for the flame wars that will result. :-)

FYI es dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [2171] GOT Comm Quarterly Regen article!
Message-ID: <11210.820682754@safety.ics.uci.edu>

Thanks to all who responded. I honestly appreciate this group and all that it offers me. My amateur radio hobby has taken several leaps primarily because of the folks on this list.

Clark
WA3JPG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Dan Reynolds <bcdlr@slip.net>
Subject: [2213] Ham Radio Exam ftp site
Message-ID: <199601040228.SAA15461@slip-1.slip.net>

TNX for all the responses on exam locations. The Amsoft CD location had a bunch: <ftp://hamster.business.uwo.ca/cdrom/exams>
The GHZ programs are pretty good, not real fancy, DOS based, I like it so far, and thorough.
Thanks especially to: ruswhite@netwest.com (Russell W. White) for the Amsoft location.

If you want to take an exam while on the web try: <http://w5ac.tamu.edu:80/exams/>

I had seen this one earlier, and Pat Doyle wrote me about this one as well.
Thanks to all!

73's

Peace+

Dan Reynolds, bcdlr@slip.net, KB9JLO

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996

From: Art Moe <artmoe@agora.rdrop.com>

Subject: [2207] Its here

Message-ID: <Pine.BSF.3.91.960103163152.23570A-1000000@agora.rdrop.com>

QRP Quarterly came to the left coast today.

...-.-

73's

Arthur Moe

A.R.S. KB7WW

artmoe@agora.rdrop.com

Oregon City, Or

45-19-22 N 122-36-37 W CN85

At the end of the Oregon Trail

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996

From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)

Subject: [2177] Jan QQ

Message-ID: <199601031654.QAA06817@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Got mine today. Small problem. I sent in 8 pages
and got 3 printed. The only problem with this is
that the important stuff, like what the table is is
missing. I'll post later.

dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com

Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996

From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>

Subject: [2199] KC-1 for Argonaut?

Message-ID: <15384.820708717@safety.ics.uci.edu>

While I am Argo-crazy, has anyone adapted the KC-1 freq counter /
keyer to the old Argonauts? It seems a good idea.

Clark
WA3JPG

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "David E. Shelton" <deshe101@homer.louisville.edu>
Subject: [2159] KITS???
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960103015855.25159B-100000@homer.louisville.edu>

Hello to ALL,

I am a Tech+ and I do have a basic working knowledge of electronics prior
to becoming an amateur. I am looking at building a QRP kit or possibly
buying a used Argonaut, I still have not decided on which one yet.
However, what I wanted to know is what kits are the best value and
require minimal test equipment for calibration and testing. I have access
to a frequency counter and oscilloscope of my father's, a retired
electronical engineer, and I have my own multimeter.

Any advice appreciated.

73/72,

de KE4FPS,David
QRP-L #142

David E. Shelton, RN, BSN	Every Patient Deserves A Nurse!
deshe101@homer.louisville.edu	Help Professional Nurses Maintain the
102551,1470@compuserve.com	Highest Standards of Care in Every Health
KE4FPS@WD9AGK.#SIN.IN.USA.NA (packet)	Care Setting.

====The goal of the American Nurses Association. Patient Care always First.====

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: QLF%mini@magic.itg.ti.com
Subject: [2178] MFJ 9040
Message-ID: <9601031655.AA09545@itg.ti.com>

From: Brad Bradfield QLF

Subj: MFJ 9040

Has anyone else ever had trouble with the transmit mixer occasionally jumping in frequency on an MFJ 9040? Mine has very occasionally done it, and when it does, it can be quite bad. It will jump far enough that I may or may not be able to still hear the sidetone. I suspect that it is being caused by a flaky transmit offset trimmer capacitor, but I have not proven this. Mechanically rapping on the side of the chassis near this cap does not seem to have any effect.

The receiver is quite stable. Also the BFO, which is exactly the same oscillator and mixer as the TX offset.

Any suggestions will be appreciated.

Also, anybody have any comments on the CMOS Super Keyer III? I have owned both the original Super Keyer, and the Super KEyer II and loved them, and just wondered if it was worth upgrading to the III.

Brad Bradfield, WB0CGH

QLF@MSG.TI.COM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: RHILTO@acxiom.com
Subject: [2179] Microphone help
Message-ID: <0eaba480@acxiom.com>

A while back I posted a request for help with selecting/building the "right" mike for my QRP+, and Steve, N2MNN, posted a useful and encouraging reply. That would have been enough, but then he went overboard and snail-mailed me a 3 page note, including schematic, titled "Making Your Own Quality Microphones". This looks like it was originally printed in a magazine, and it describes, in exquisite detail, how to turn a \$1.99 Radio Shack mike element into a quality microphone.

Great job, Steve! Thanks for the help.

7.3, ki5ez
Bob

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Dick G0BPS <dick@kanga.demon.co.uk>

Subject: [2170] Mike Bryce Email???
Message-ID: <361@kanga.demon.co.uk>

Hi, Is Mike WB8VGE on Email?
If so do you have his address..

Many Thanks de Dick

--

* Dick G0BPS / G0ROO KANGA PRODUCTS *
* The UKs biggest supplier of great *
* QRP kits and simple test equipment *
* *

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: richards@nylink.org
Subject: [2212] Northern New York Section
Message-ID: <9601040208.AA26465@genesis.nylink.org>

Hi All,

Well, it's official. Northern New York is an ARRL section. To celebrate we will be having a QSO Party of sorts. If you have a QSO with 5 NNY stations you get a nice certificate. Contacting hams in 5 of the 12 NNY counties earns an endorsement on the certificate. A contact with our fearless leader, Section Manager WB2BAU, George, garners another endorsement. Many stations in our little section will be on the air, so please get on the air to meet and greet us.

Times: Start - 7 p.m. EST Friday January 12, 1996
End - 7 p.m. EST Sunday January 14, 1996
UTC - 0000z 1/13/96 to 2359z 1/14/96
Bands-Modes - 80, 40, 20, and 2 Meters; CW, SSB and FM

For certificates, send an SASE to WB2BAU George, General Delivery, Norwood, NY 13668.

Please indicate stations and NNY counties worked for proper credit on the Certificate.

As of this writing NNY includes the following 12 counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Otsego, St. Lawrence and Schoharie.

ObQRP: I will be on during this time working on/near the QRP CW

frequencies on 20, 40, and 80. I'll also be on the Novice freqs.

I will be running a NorCal Sierra, HW-8 or K9AY 20M xcvr. Antenna's will be a Delta Loop and a Vertical (if I can convince it to work).

I won't promise a beer or a car if you work me, but I will promise to be nice, for a change ;-)

Happy New Year Everyone, see you on the air!

Rick WZ2T

NNY Affiliated Club Coordinator

richards@nylink.org

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996

From: rbsparks@iAmerica.net (Robert B. Sparks)

Subject: [2215] OHR alignment (long)

Message-ID: <199601040249.UAA08248@ns2.iAmerica.net>

Hi folks,

Many thanks for the friendly fellows who responded to my plea for help in aligning the OHR Explorer II for 40 meters. My MFJ 259 Antenna Analyzer requires too much signal to read the frequency at R42 in the alignment procedure according to Dick at OHR . He suggested borrowing a 10X probe. Group suggestions ran from using a small value cap to building up an amplifier. Dick suggested a simple solution if you have a general coverage receiver which worked well for me: Run a small insulated wire from the antenna connector in the general coverage receiver and lay this wire across the OHR between R42 and L9. This creates a mini-antenna. Don't allow the bare end of the wire to touch anything! Protect your general coverage receiver! I just taped the end of the wire to the work table. Set the receiver to 2.085 MHZ CW mode and begin the tuning procedure as outlined. I started with the tuning slug in L9 flush at the top of the can, and screwed it down until I heard a strong tone in the RX, and continued fiddling with L9 until I zero beat the tone. Then I cranked up the RX to 2.155 MHZ CW mode and adjusted C62 to zero beat. (I stored these two freqs in the VFO memory of my RX so I could switch back and forth easily.) Basically, this portion of the alignment is a repetition of the above process. By tuning the can and cap alternately for zero beat, you can effectively use the RX as a freq counter.

As I did not have the foresight to purchase the OHR watt meter, I had to improvise on output adjustment. too. This was simple enough. While transmitting into the antenna with the OHR in a vacant frequency (I don't have a dummy load), I tuned in this transmitted signal with my general coverage RX which had no antenna attached, then peaked the S meter on the

Kenwood by tweaking C30. Voila: max output on the OHR!

My first QSO was this evening with Dick AA2WJ/QRP (not Dick from OHR!). He gave me a 449, and considering the condx, it was a real moral victory. I was thrilled to see the rig actually work.

Many, many thanks for those who emailed suggestions. I was a real help to read through the ideas. If I can help anyone or clarify the above, please let me know! See you folks on 40!

Bob AB5ZD

PS There seems to be a slight freq drift in the rig, even after a prolonged warmup. Any one else experience this?

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@compuserve.com>
Subject: [2180] OHR Explorer II VFO Stability
Message-ID: <960103181321_75230.1405_HHB78-2@CompuServe.COM>

Craig asked for other users experience with VFO drift in the Explorer II.

I have the 40M version, and have found that there is noticeable drift when the rig is first powered up. After about 5 minutes, though, the VFO is adequately stable (maybe 30Hz from minute 5 to minute 6, decreasing thereafter, but that's just a rough guess). There have been reports of other rigs (one 20M rig in particular comes to mind) with serious drift problems due to trimmer cap in the VFO circuit.

Judging from what I've seen and heard, I'd say that 10-15 minutes to settle down is excessive and Craig and others with that level of instability should contact OHR regarding a fix.

73/72
Marshall
AA0XI/VK5FN

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu>
Subject: [2210] OHR version of the Jones filter
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9601032049.C30732-01000000@w3eax.umd.edu>

When I ordered the radio, I spoke to Dick and asked him about the filtering scheme. He said, (and I paraphrase since it's been a few months)

"I called up Ten-Tec and asked them about using the filtering scheme. They said it was patented but they intentionally let the patent expire so people could use it. They only ask that people ask if it's OK to use their design; imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

So I'm led to believe it's actually a Jones filter in the Explorer II. IMHO, it SURE works well.

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I Burtonsville, MD FM19 QRV 40-10/6/2/440
** Yes, you CAN do VHF contests with 25W and omni antennas **
Still stuck at 138 countries confirmed on HF w/dipoles...
72 & 73 from suburban DC 301-549-1022 (h) 301-982-1015 (w)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "John Foote" <John_Foote_at_HDN-BCSE@ccgate.ml.nec.com>
Subject: [2168] Power Levels
Message-ID: <9600038206.AA820690755@mvlsmtg.ccgate.ml.nec.com>

I agree with the comment that QRP power levels should be in "real units."

From now on, please express all transmitter output levels in JOULES PER SECOND.

72 es Thank you for your support de KR4GL
John Foote

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: ljones@why.net (ljones)
Subject: [2160] QRP & Tuner Losses
Message-ID: <19960103085506972.AAC243@dal12.why.net>

Hi Gang...

As for myself, I would rather have the loss in the tuner than the loss of a final transistor due to reflected power. That reflected power has to be dissipated somewhere.

72/73

dee-it dee-it

Larry Jones N5OSG <><
4028 Random Circle
Garland Tx 75043-3250

NorTex	QRP-ARCI	G-QRP	MI-QRP
NorCal	NE-QRP	QRP-L	NTMS

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "Tim Stabler" <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>
Subject: [2201] questions
Message-ID: <1BD32E58A5@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

To members of this net, I have two questions:

1. Is Ocean State still in business?? I have seen their name a couple of times but see no ads in Radio Electronics or Hambrew. They did have some interesting stuff and I was curious if they were still around.

2. Would someone be willing to copy the alignment page(s) for the WM-1 and send them to me? I would be willing to reimburse you for your trouble. I finally finished my Explorer I and started alignment only to find that my wattmeter gave nice readings with nothing attached, especially at the 1 watt and lower settings. I assume that if nothing is attached, I should have a zero reading. The Explorer got sent to Dick for his alignment along with a question about what I should be careful of when I re-align.

I aligned the piece last summer and it seemed perfect. But then I started the total re-modeling of the house prior to my marriage and all I can say is that I have the manual someplace. Just thought if I could get that page or two from someone, I could re-align and then be ready for my Explorer II aligning in the near future.

The I is for 20 meters and the II is for 30 meters. From what I have read here, I should get a NorCal 40 for 40 meters.

Thanks much.

72 de
Tim WB9NLZ

Tim Stabler
Department of Biology
Indiana University Northwest
Gary, IN 46408

(219)980-6718
FAX: (219)980-7125

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "Tim Stabler" <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>
Subject: [2204] questions
Message-ID: <1C88AF2D25@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

ABout the WM-1, Chuck Adams asked me for my FAX number so maybe he will be faxing the page(s) to me. I sure hope so. I never thought about that way to get printed material here. The fax number for me right now is (219)980- 6866 but be sure to have my name on the page(s). My machine is down at this point and that number is for the divisional office.

Thanks to all.

72 de Tim WB9NLZ

Tim Stabler
Department of Biology
Indiana University Northwest
Gary, IN 46408

(219)980-6718
FAX: (219)980-7125

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net (George Gingell)
Subject: [2164] SIERRA
Message-ID: <1996Jan03.080204.21963@abs.net>

Wilderness Sierra -

I received mine in the mail the Day after Christmas. I did an inventory of the Main circuit board and Hardware. Every single item was found to present and in good condition. Note that the 2N7000's are packed with the IC's in Seperate protective packaging. I did not bother to inventory the Band Module package at this time. Each Band module is seperatly bagged

and the band modules are bagged together. I was very impressed with the quality of the components and the Manual. I read over the manual. Yes, I actually READ the manual before starting the project. I also made a working copy of it. I hate to mark up the pages of the original. I have since, put a note or two in it. RE-CHECK THE ORIENTATION OF THE IC'S "BEFORE" YOU SOLDER THEM !!! I managed to get 2 of them in wrong! Let that be a lesson for you. If you can't learn by my mistake, Make SURE to have "Solder Wick" on hand. I Would have taken it to the Solder Sucker at the Candy Store, but they were closed New Years Day. I thought that I would make this a two year project. Start on Old Years and finish on New Years. My ailments got the best of me. I gave up about Ten O'Clock and went to bed. I got the Main PCB done except for the Toroids. I think the Jack for the PCB Modules should have been installed after the R's & C's. Mine now has a warped Main PCB because it didn't

lay flat while soldering. Yes, I had it tightened down as per the instructions.

I think that is part of the problem. If I did it again, I would have fastened the Jack loosely and then applied a slight amount of pressure to the PCB while

I soldered the middle pins of the jack to the PCB, then I would have soldered the end pins, then tightened the hardware and finish soldering the remaining pins. I am probably going to leave mine as it is, because I would have to unsolder all those pins before I could start over. The risk is too great! It also occurred to me that it would be nice to have a printed copy of the PCB's with Test Points, IC's and Transistor Leads Marked. I was going to try to Xerox the PCB and mark it up by hand, but I couldn't wait to get started on the kit. Maybe Wayne and Bob can provide us with copies of the PCB layouts.

I promise not to make Circuit boards. (Couldn't come close to these anyway!) Now I have to start looking for the perfect Meter to put in it. I hate the thought of cutting a hole in that Beautiful front panel, but it must be done. I have to have that S/Rf Meter and of Course the KC-1 Must go in it also. I just ordered the ST. Louis ATU to go with the Sierra. This is going to be One First Class QRP Machine. I guess the next thing I will have to do is make up a Battery Pack/Charger to match and find a nice Briefcase for all. I wonder if there is enuff program room in the KC-1 to add a Pause/Repeat function so we could use it as a Portable QRP Beacon?

While it is no where near finished, I am confident that this is going to be a winner. I might add that the Wilderness NC40-A was finest kit that I have built in quite some time. It worked perfectly the first time. (After I fixed my errors). The RF Drive control and the AGC control are not the same values. It matters not that the Design and layout are perfect. Some of us can

find a way to make it fail. Don't worry, Someone can help you find and mend the error of your ways.

QRP DX TU (C) 1986 G. Danny Gingell, K3TKS @ bbs.abs.net

--

George Gingell, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net
E-Mail: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [2208] Sierra band module ejector handles -- ideas?
Message-ID: <v02130508ad10d541cdc4@[199.170.106.28]>

The new band module cover makes extraction of band modules easier. Still, it would be nice to have some small ejector handles on either side, especially for brand-new modules, which are pretty tight.

I've played with various ejector handle designs, but don't really like any of them. Anyone out there who has a Sierra and would like to design something better? I'll figure out later how to reward your efforts.

Requirements:

The handles need to be no longer than about 1.25" long;

They must not interfere with insertion;

They must mount to the band module connector (J5) with nothing other than the two screws that hold J5 to the PC board;

They should use a broad-contact-point friction technique to push on and lift out the band module, but they should not damage the PC board.

Sound easy? Go for it!

Wish I was an M.E., but there are too many other things to do.

73,
Wayne
N6KR

P.S. -- Please don't send suggestions--I won't have time to do anything with them. I'm hoping to find someone who can actually make prototypes from plastic and try them out on a real Sierra. "Run your idea past the hardware."

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: n2mnn@openix.com (STEVEN PITUCH)
Subject: [2206] Sierra Kit: A Great Design
Message-ID: <199601040035.TAA15973@pantera.openix.com>

Congrats to Wayne and Bob for a great radio. The fact that the first Wilderness Sierra addenda was so minor (mostly alignment notes) is tribute to the fact that the Sierra-KC-1 design and production efforts were exceptional.

So far I've built only the Sierra and the 40M module.

No missing parts!

Worked the first time!

Performance wise, this is the first kit that I've built that I've really been satisfied with. I'm so encouraged that I'm starting my WASTP 50 effort tonite at .95 Watts.

72,

Steve, N2MNN

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [2195] Sierra manual addendum
Message-ID: <v02130502ad1091be05d4@[199.170.106.28]>

Thanks to all who have provided suggestions for the Sierra manual. I'll be updating the manual soon, but for the benefit of those with the first version, here's the addendum. Nothing major, but you may want to mark up your manual accordingly. Please send me any other comments or corrections.

73,

Wayne, N6KR

* * *

Kit Error

A small number of kits were shipped with aluminum-can 4.915MHz crystals. These cannot be soldered to; return them to Wilderness Radio for replacements if desired. However, the grounding wire on X1-X4 only improves filter blow-by a small amount, so leaving it off is not a serious problem. The aluminum-can crystals actually have excellent Q, which is much more important.

Manual Corrections

Page 10, top right paragraph, add at the end, "DO NOT tighten the hardware beyond hand-tight." Then, after paragraph 2, add a check box and the text: "Tighten the hardware holding J5 to the PCB."

Page 14, first sentence in right column: last word should be "PCB."

Page 17, 2nd to last paragraph: change last sentence to "The retention force is quite high initially, but removal will become easier with use."

Page 21, box in third row, first column (of chart): Add at end, "If C64/C66 don't end up near their midpoints, you may have the filter peaked at the wrong frequency. Try finding a different peak if necessary (after attempting the entire receiver alignment procedure)."

Page 21, box in last row, first column (of chart): Add at end, "C1's peak may be very broad on some bands."

Page 33, at end: Add paragraph, "Increasing RIT Range: The RIT range is nominally around +/-2kHz. If you reduce R33 to 22K, the range should be about twice that. You'll need to recalibrate the VFO dial after changing the RIT range."

Parts list, page 4, 40-meter band module: C48 quantity should be 1, not 2.

Schematic, sheet 3: Under "Suggested Metering Circuits," change "See Modifications" to "See Customization."

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [2214] SKN
Message-ID: <199601040245.CAA09194@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

I did one station on 40M for QRP SKN. It was close to the end of the contest period. I was putting the GM-20 in a case and some paperwork and worked a couple of stations on 30M with the keyer.

Moved down to 40M and heard a 599 stn in AR calling CQ, so plugged up the new Schurr Miniature Key. This puppy is a beauty and well worth the price. Every Christmas I buy myself something that I'd like that noone is going to give me and this year it was this key. You gotta be good to yourself, noone else is. :-)) Next year it's the Mercury paddles.

I didn't have anytime to practice, but I figure it's like riding a bike. So wound up in a QSO for 40 minutes. Doing about 15wpm or so. The guy thought I was kidding when I told him that it was my first QSO in 30 years with a handkey.

The purpose of this post is not to go into detail, but my suggestion to all that would move up to Novice part of the band. Unplug the keyer and plug in the handkey. It is much easier to slow down. Just be perfect or close to doing a good job on keying and set a good example for the people that haven't gotten up to the 18wpm "barrier" and higher.

There is discussion in EU to move the 10.106MHz QRP calling freq due to the 10.106 commercial station, and I guess that is the one we are hearing when the band is open.

What we need, and it may have already been posted, is the exact long/lat of each 30M station, power levels, and any directivity in aerial(s) they may have. They are pretty good "beacons" or indicators of when the band is open. Just like the BC stations on 40M.

So if 30M is going to move then the 7.110 freq outta be considered at the same time. Someone said to the high part of the band. Let Buck and others know.

dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2183] SKN LOG
Message-ID: <199601031846.LAA11528@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

Was a hectic weekend, but managed to work 4 hours of SKN until 3:30am.
Then got up at 4:30am next morning (tuesday) to get my son to Albuquerque
and off to Navy bootcamp. (Great Lakes/Chicago in January? Cruel).

Last year I worked 20+ stations on SKN; this year only 7 ... not because
I was QRP, but because every QSO ended up being great rag chews. It was
fun. Here's a summary of my SKN QSO's, offered mostly to the newer hams
to give an idea what can be discussed once you get beyond RST and QTH.
About half were fellow QRPers, the rest QRO; all enjoyed the QRP aspect.

Jan. 1, 1996 UTC		his/mine freq	
0635-0655 N9NTC	QRP	559/559 7044	Mike, McFarland, WI, age 44/ham 4 yrs Using QRP+ got for xmas, just put up dipole 40-ft. Wx: 33deg, cloudy.
0704-0736 WB9VRP	QRO	55N/55N 7042	Jim, South Bend, IN, Kenwood TS120 90W, dipole, WX: 30deg, snowing. "My QRP doing fantastic job" 39 yrs old/ham for 19
0752-0826 KD6AZ	QRP	459/5NN 7040	Dave, in central CA; NorCal member and QRP-L; using brand new just-built Sierra (sounded good); ham for 33 yrs
0836-0921 WY0B	QRO	579/57N 7042	Jim, Columbia, MO, 100watts, dipole "Doing vy fb job for only 5W"; it was his first QSO in "a very long time"
0906-0921 NY6G	QRP	559/55N 7042	Stan in central CA - jumped in for a 3-way QSO with me and WY0B -fun. He needed both MO and NM for QRP WAS and participating in SKN. Was given a 559 report by WY0B in MO.
0938-0959 KN4B	QRO	559/55N 7064	Wayne, Dallas, GA; 1st CW QSO in 30 yrs. Using old Drake "6 line" 100W. 57 yrs old, ham for 35; WX: 45deg, raining. "Gud sigs fer only 5W". QSO lost by a 599 intruding Klingon.
1001-1033 KW7L	QRO	569/549 7041	Mike, Billings, MT; 100W into a "radome" 53 yrs old/ham for 16. Has a HW-9, but doesn't use cuz output dropped to 4 watts!

3 QSO's at 8wpm; 2 at 15wpm, 2 at straight-key warp-speed of 20wpm.
I was using my MFJ-9040 and inverted vee and a WW-II Navy J-38 ... the
one my dad used at NPG when Guam was reoccupied by US forces.

Heard lots of SKN/QRP stations on. Great. Hope all had fun.
See you next as the fox Jan. 15th and QRP Afield Apr. 27.

72, Paul NA5N
ouch ouch (dit dit with carnal tunnel syndrome)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Paul Harden <pharden@aoc.nrao.edu>
Subject: [2190] SKN LOG addendum
Message-ID: <199601032018.NAA14251@zia.aoc.nrao.edu>

Carnal tunnel syndrome (as opposed to carpal) is a little sick hospital humor I learned from my wife, an RN floor/ER room nurse. Thought I'd use it on my post, and figured 1,2 maybe 3 people might pick it up. GADS, more like half the group! You guys are quick, sharp, on-top-of-it and don't miss a single word on these posts, do you? Scary. It also tells me half of you have minds as dimented as mine. Really scary.

In retrospect, however, I appologize if I offended anyone.

(Sitting on that cold metal chair in my outdoor shack for SKN, it was mildly appropriate).

Paul NA5N
oops oops (dit dit with egg on your face)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net (George Gingell)
Subject: [2165] Solar Info
Message-ID: <1996Jan03.082205.29790@abs.net>

Alex, WA5UNY
If you want information concerning Solar Panels and Systems I suggest that you contact Mike Bryce, WB8VGE at (216)832-3144 or e-mail at 73357.222@Compuserve.com . Mike Does the QRP Column in 73 Amateur Radio Today. He has a Company called Sunlight Systems. I am sure he can help you.
QRP DX TU (C)1986 Danny Gingell,K3TKS@bbs.abs.net

--

George Gingell, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net

E-Mail: George.Gingell@bbs.abs.net
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: mtt6@cornell.edu (Matthew Trail)
Subject: [2169] St. Louis tuner power rating?
Message-ID: <199601031457.JAA15977@postoffice4.mail.cornell.edu>

Hi, gang

At the risk of being terribly gauche (but budget-minded, so there),
what is the MAXIMUM power rating for the St. Louis tuner?? How many illicit
qro watts could I pump through the thing?

Matt AA2ZD (ex KN6CR)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Jon Liechty <jliechty@indiana.edu>
Subject: [2167] The Beacon, kind of...
Message-ID: <Pine.HPP.3.91.960103082113.14817A-100000@ophelia.ucs.indiana.edu>

Well, I didn't hear the beacon, but I went to so much
trouble not to hear it, and I had so much fun in the process,
that I figure the story's worth sharing.

You see, I haven't been on the air for many years, and
the only vestige I've retained of a once-interesting setup is
a general-coverage receiver I built from a kit way back when.
So over the weekend I cleaned up the cold solder joints and
brushed off the cobwebs, plugged it in, and turned it on.

The first antenna I tried was a pair of rabbit ears,
together with a ground wire to the water heater. I soon found
out that the ground wire made a better antenna than the
antenna. But the antenna I ended up using was some thin
stranded wire taped to the wall, since I figured the landlord
might take a dim view of wires that block access to the water
heater.

The next adventure was finding 40 meters. Calibration
of this set has always been a rather speculative affair, with
the relationship of frequency heard to number on the dial being
described by a function I've never been able to determine. But I
located the band.

Then came the joy of rediscovering CW, and the excitement

of copying signals from all over the country (and elsewhere; I heard more VE3's in two days than I had heard in the two YEARS when I operated before). There's still nothing like the thrill that comes from copying--successfully--a signal that's faded almost into the QRN, or of hanging onto one signal out of the five in your phones. Yeah, I plan to get a real rig (SOON) but it was pretty special anyway.

So it's no wonder that I didn't find the white rabbit of AA4XX in the 40m snowstorm, but I had a great weekend anyhow. 73's to all, and I'll keep trying.

-Jon (WD9FEP)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: rohrwerk@netcom.com (John Seboldt)
Subject: [2154] The rig has the 500,250 CW filters
Message-ID: <199601030329.TAA03451@netcom15.netcom.com>

Jeff, AC4HF, likes CW so much, that when he offered his Omni VI, he boasted:

> The rig has the 500,250 CW filters

Now this man is one *serious* CW op...

: John Seboldt rohrwerk@netcom.com / CW: It don't mean a thing
: K0JD... Minneapolis, MN / if it ain't got that swing!
: My R2/T2 station described in / Di dah, di dah, di dah, di dah...
> <http://www.lehigh.edu/lists/qrp-1/k0jd/index.html> <

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Roy Boggs <rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net>
Subject: [2176] Tuner discussion
Message-ID: <199601031633.LAA26886@pcc-uky-01.campus.mci.net>

Hi gang,

Somehow Chuck manages to be right on target all the time!

Here is my own experience with tuners: Using a Heathkit SA-2060A and QRP rigs I have found the Autek RF-1 to be the most valuable piece of equipment for tuning. At a specific frequency, I first adjust for Z (50 ohms) then for SWR (which may or may not be 1:1 on my 160 meter inv-vee). Going back and

forth between SWR and Z, I adjust for the perfect match. Without the RF-1 I would never know about reactance, only SWR. What's the difference?.. well you can have a Z=50 ohms and not have 1:1 swr, right? Losses?, well a 35mW signal from the lil W1FB Mighty Mite (QRP Notebook) manages to wiggle through the tuner and 250 feet of 450 ohm ladder line to my antenna and net 579 RST to New Hampshire. The roller inductor really puts it right on the nose. Can't put a Heath 2060A into a briefcase though.

Wearing asbestos,
Roy

Roy Boggs KE4KDT QRP-L #322
Prestonsburg, KY rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Roger L Traylor <Roger_L_Traylor@ccm.jf.intel.com>
Subject: [2205] U309, J309 Sources?

Gang,

I know that this was discussed a month or so ago and I did not save the info. What is the recommended source for U309 or J309 JFETs? Please respond directly to save bandwidth.

Thanks,

Roger Traylor WB4TPW

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: k7yha@ix.netcom.com (Richard H. Arland)
Subject: [2216] Wilderness NorCal-40A
Message-ID: <199601040252.SAA28620@ix11.ix.netcom.com>

Am posting this to the qrp-1 as well.

Got a call from Rick Lindquist at League HQ this noon. He is sending back my NC-40A that they used in the "QRP KIT ROUND UP" article in an upcoming QST. In addition, he gave me some of the lab specs on my NC-40A and thought that you and the qrp-1 gang might be interested:

MDS: -137 dBm (not bad for a kit radio)

2-Tone Dynamic Range: 89 dBm (not bad considering the RX uses ONLY a 4-pole Xtal filter)

Sensitivity: 0.032 MICROVOLTS!!!!!! Talk about HOT.....this puppy is definately on fire!

The computed the sensitivity several times just to be sure! No wonder I can hear a rat fart at 400 miles!

I'd be interested to find out how well the specs are on my Sierra, cuz it sure outperfoms my Argo 515!

72/73 rich K7YHA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: nu6u@w6trw.ampr.org
Subject: [2175] Re: 40M-Wild Stuff!
Message-ID: <7464@w6trw.ampr.org>

- > Gang:
- > Forgive my goings on about 40 meters, but this
- > is a new band for me and it's pretty facsinating.

No sweat Dave! congrats on getting on 40. I have always said, that if I only had one band, 40 would be that one band.

I admire your excitement over operating a new band, and I think that you have captured the essence of QRP; that is, having a blast operating with a couple of watts....

Keep up the Good work, and hope to cu on the bands sometime.

73's 72's

max (nu6u)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [2193] Re: ABX (adj. bandwidth xtal filter) comments

Message-ID: <v02130504ad109bb45cd4@[199.170.106.28]>

>How does the "Jones filter" in the TenTec rigs differ from the "ABX",
>and from the filter in the OHR Explorer II??? Can someone enlighten
>me here? -- A friend asked me this question when I mentioned my
>Explorer II filter, and he wanted to know if this was the same as a
>Jones filter...

Harry, the Jones filter has three times the parts, more varactors, and uses a lot of trim pots to fine-match the varactors. Consequently, the passband is flatter at all settings. But there was no room for this on the Sierra board, so I opted for only three varactors and no individual trimmers for each. They track fairly well despite this, thanks to good QC at Motorola.

I don't know about the Explorer. Please send me a schematic if you have one.

73,
Wayne

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: nu6u@w6trw.ampr.org
Subject: [2217] Re: Alinco DX-70T as QRP rig
Message-ID: <7522@w6trw.ampr.org>

Scott Rosenfeld NF3I <ham@w3eax.umd.edu> writes:

>Caution:

>Like the IC-706, the rig draws 600-700 mA on receive and
>1.6 A on xmit with NO power out. Putting out even 5 watts
>draws between 3.5 and 4.2 A. It's a dynamite QRP rig with a
>great receiver, but it DOES NOT conserve battery capacity.

Odd, it seems that most all dynamite rigs are pretty hard on a modest sized gell cells. I sort of look at the DX-70T as a modern high performance QRP rig; (When the power levels are set properly) where as, I see the kit rigs as relatively low

performance fun rigs, that are usually battery friendly.
Always pick the right tool for the Job...

Thanks for the interesting comments Scott....

73's/72's

max (nu6u)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: nu6u-1@w6trw.ampr.org
Subject: [2197] Re: Alinco Dx-70T comments
Message-ID: <7495@w6trw.ampr.org>

Thanks for your comments on the DX-70T John. Although it doesn't quite sound like the perfect QRP rig, What is? It also goes to show you that high tech rigs still need good operators with good antennas. It was interesting to to hear how you had to manipulate the controls for band width, and CW up/low to obtain the optimum settings; again, a radio is only as good as the operator behind the switch.

Great Job, and fun to read Good Info John....

73's/72's max (nu6u)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Larry East <LVE1@inel.gov>
Subject: [2172] RE: Cascade SSB Output Power
Message-ID: <9601031537.AA08291@garnet.inel.gov>

>My Cascade exhibits a behavior, and am wondering if you think it's normal or
>not. The rig puts out 3 watts (20 meters) on peaks when I whistle into it.
> But in normal speech, as measured in the OHR CW wattmeter, the wattmeter
>reads less than half a watt.
>

Unless modified, the OHR Wattmeter reads average power output. When you whistle, the steady tone produces a high average power reading. When you speak, an average power of 0.5 W or less is not unreasonable (depending on your voice and mic characteristics). A "peak power" Wattmeter would give a better indication of actual peak envelope power output, but even then the

whistle would probably indicate more power output due to it being a (more-or-less) steady tone.

I published a mod for the OHR Wattmeter to make it peak reading in the ARCI QRP Quarterly (Jan. '95, I think). Its fairly easy, but does require a little cutting on the circuit board.

72, Larry W1HUE/7

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>
Subject: [2174] Re: Cascade SSB Output Power
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.960103112600.19335A-100000@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

In my opinion the W1HUE/7 mod. to the WM-1 is a must, particularly for the SSBer interested in verifying his output power. The beauty of Larry's mod. is that it uses the extra op.amp already sitting there unused in the WM-1. I put in the mod. when the wattmeter was first assembled. It works great.

72/73,
Clay N4AOX
wyn@ornl.gov

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Gene Tehansky <tehansky@atc.ameritel.net>
Subject: [2209] Re: Copper Tube J-Pole for 2m/70cm?
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.960103203051.32733C-100000@atc.ameritel.net>

On Wed, 3 Jan 1996, Dave Fifield wrote:

> Does anyone have the constructional details for a daul-bander (2m
> and 70cm) version of the copper tube J-pole antenna design?
> I'd very much appreciate a copy if you have.
>

Dave,

>From the February 1992 73 magazine, page 9, the Copper Cactus J-Pole.

Made at least 50 of these for sale in our club. Something about soldering copper pipe that appeals. So here are the dimensions.

Raw cut tubing - 60.5", 1.5", 18.5"

1 90 deg elbow and 1 t, standard .5 inch copper water pipe.

Tap the cable about 2.25 inches up from the center of the small piece. I put a cap on the two tubes to keep out water. Use a standard panel mount so-239 connector and screw or poprivit it to the short end then solder it. Jumper a piece of heavy copper wire from the center conductor to the tall section and solder.

Many people were very pleased with the performance of these antennas. The only trick is soldering the connector without melting the insulator. Connector selection is a major factor here.

Good Luck

de aa3av Gene In Sunny Southern Maryland - qrp-l #186, FISTS #1220, QRP ARCI #7281, G-QRP # 8313, Mi-QRP #m-1348

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: John&Suzie_Rollins@pmug.org (John&Suzie Rollins)
Subject: [2158] Re: Exam Programs
Message-ID: <56356830.17454863@pmug.org>

Check out <http://www.arrl.org/>, they have links to some stuff, or try <http://www.yahoo.com/> and use the search command for "amateur radio", I think the FTP site with the exams is at <ftp://ftp.funet.fi/>, I can't remember the exact path, but it isn't difficult to find... 73

-JR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Craig LaBarge <74740.3166@compuserve.com>
Subject: [2196] Re: Explorer II VFO Stability
Message-ID: <960103221536_74740.3166_EHB62-1@CompuServe.COM>

Thanks to Chuck, K5F0, for posting the results of his drift measurements. At least I now know that my rig is normal. I agree with Chuck: The warm-up time is a minor inconvenience given the outstanding performance of the Explorer II's receiver. Nothing short of amazing.

Thanks again, Chuck.

73, Craig WB3GCK

P.S. Looks like another trip to Dallas for me next week. Anything of interest to ham radio going on down there next week?

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: n2mnn@openix.com (STEVEN PITUCH)
Subject: [2203] RE: Microphones help
Message-ID: <199601032353.SAA09299@pantera.openix.com>

Bob,

Ray, WB6TPU, says that my "Making Your Own Quality Microphones" article will be in one of the next two issues of QQ. For those who can't wait, let me know and I'll try to snail mail you a copy.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.mmc.com
Subject: [2192] Re: PC board processing with a photocopier
Message-ID: <960103160026.2323ddb3@carib.vf.mmc.com>

Gan,

Thanks for all the replies ot my query about past references on qrp-1. I've gotten several individual comments, a couple of short summaries, one lengthy article and a superb summary from Jim Eshelman, the Lehigh U patron of qrp-1 - that guy must never sleep, eat or do anything else!

I'm currently overwhelmed with info! As time permits, I will attempt to summarize the high points and come up with an article distilling the best of this body of knowledge and experience. You can be sure I'll share it with my qrp-1 buddies.

72/73,

Joe E., N2CX

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: n2mnn@openix.com (STEVEN PITUCH)

Subject: [2202] Re: SIERRA module jack
Message-ID: <199601032349.SAA08799@pantera.openix.com>

George,

You are right about the warping. Luckily, I noticed it before I did any soldering. I did exactly as you recommend: loosened the bolts, soldered the center pins first, then the rest, and then tightened the bolts. I still think that the board is not perfectly flat, but at least it looks better. I noticed that you must tighten the bottom cover screws in a certain order to keep the whole radio square.

1. First, install the two bottom screws for alignment purposes, but don't tighten them.
2. Flip the radio right side up and install the other 4 screws, but don't tighten them.
3. With the radio on a flat surface, tighten the 4 side screws while pressing down on the front and rear panels to keep the radio square.
4. Finally tighten the bottom screws.

I used to use the same technique on my Knwd TS-530. Otherwise it would look like a bent pretzel.

I'm sure the arching will not affect the performance of your rig since it is still rigid.

72,

Steve, N2MNN
N2MNN@OPENIX.COM

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: jcumming@clark.dgim.doc.ca (Jim Cummings)
Subject: [2184] Re: SKN LOG
Message-ID: <9601031900.AA14247@clark.dgim.doc.ca>

>3 QSO's at 8wpm; 2 at 15wpm, 2 at straight-key warp-speed of 20wpm.
>I was using my MFJ-9040 and inverted vee and a WW-II Navy J-38 ... the
>one my dad used at NPG when Guam was reoccupied by US forces.
>
>Heard lots of SKN/QRP stations on. Great. Hope all had fun.
>See you next as the fox Jan. 15th and QRP Afield Apr. 27.

>
>72, Paul NA5N
>ouch ouch (dit dit with carnal tunnel syndrome)

Is this a malady of someone breaking out in frenzied sexual activity only when present in underground excavations? (I couldn't resist - I think the word is carpal....)

=====
Jim Cummings
eMail:jcumming@clark.dgim.doc.ca
packet:VE3XJ@VE3JF.#EONT.ON.CA.NOAM
73 and live better digitally
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED...
because remember, today is the first
day of the rest of your life.
=====

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: Brien Pepperdine <pepperb@gov.on.ca>
Subject: [2187] Re: SKN LOG
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.90.960103143938.26607A-100000@govonca2.gov.on.ca>

Since Paul wisely proposed qrp SKN, here is my report. I found more to do on New Years Eve than I thought I would. What with my wife cooking up a storm of festive food for us to eat, and the dogs to watch being prepared (hopefully), and then accordingly viewing the film "Like Water for Chocolate" (a steamy, foody / Magic Realism film) on the video, I only worked 3 stations, since my brother in law returned on N.Y's Day from a 2.25 year assignment out of the country (hence: more dining).

First contact was with a qrp-1 member only blocks from me, Joe Cooper. Second was a Novice somewhere, shakey but we had fun. Details are elsewhere, but not really important.

But, in the closing hours of SKN just before I had to leave for dinner, I had an excellent qso for just over an hour with a woman doing grad studies at Harvard in sociology. She formerly was a software engineer in Japan, but had a chance to look at the social side of her work and ended up interested in that, and teaching. Hence at Harvard. She has been a ham

for only two years, but already is Extra Class (that's a big deal, right?). Great fist. She was calling CQ in the 40m Novice portion, just above where the SW-BC was. For me it was a unique experience to be able to be in 40m. novice - thought I'd give a Novice a qso on 40, but she was no novice!

Anyhow, we had a great ramble, and my forearm was tired fer certain afterward.

So, only three in the log for SKN, but enjoyable.

I might have managed more, but the Canada Winter contest was the day before and I was whipped from that a bit - much the same deal except I did it on phone at 40 w. and had some nice rag chews and did not go to bed at a decent time!

Brien
Toronto

pepperb@gov.on.ca

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: [2185] re: Vitamin V: Voltage! (caution)
Message-ID: <v0213050fad107d3b33fe@[199.170.106.28]>

An important detail or two about using higher supply voltages:

1. At 4 watts and a collector impedance of 40 ohms, you may get peaks over 40V at the collector. Replace the 36V zener diode with a 51V unit if you think you'll be going over 36V on peaks (in fact this is quite likely if you ever use an antenna tuner).
2. Make sure all electrolytic capacitors can handle the intended voltage. On the Sierra, all caps are 25V, I believe.
3. Watch for a sudden increase in current drain that is out of proportion to the supply voltage. This may be an indication that you're exceeding V_{be} of the PA transistor, which is typically -4 or -5V max.

73,
Wayne
N6KR

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Wed Jan 3 21:15:41 1996
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [2156] Re: What about CW using a Cascade
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.960102211440.454H-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Doug,
I would leave it as an SSB rig. The XTAL filter is way too wide for CW,
so you'd have to add variable bandwidth, etc. My two-cents worth!
72, Dave, W6EMD